



# ADVANCING EQUITY IN DISASTER RECOVERY



## Background

Equity, fairness, and inclusivity must be at the forefront of disaster recovery. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development is committed to advancing the equitable distribution of disaster recovery funds by addressing the intersections between disaster recovery, civil rights, and fair housing.

This commitment helps Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) grantees recover from natural disasters in a way that builds more equitable and resilient communities for all. Incorporating equity and fair housing considerations can also improve the quality of HUD-funded programs and meet legal and regulatory obligations.

## The Consolidated Notice

HUD has developed a Consolidated Notice which combines and updates requirements from several different Federal Register and CPD notices that have previously governed CDBG-DR funds. HUD seeks to advance the equitable distribution of recovery funds by planning for targeted assistance to residents of underserved communities; members of protected classes under fair housing and civil rights laws; and other vulnerable populations who have been historically marginalized and adversely impacted by disasters that exacerbate existing inequities.



# CDBG-DR CONSOLIDATED NOTICE

## PROMOTING FAIR HOUSING, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND ADVANCING EQUITY

*Grantees must use CDBG-DR funds in a manner that complies with its fair housing and nondiscrimination obligations, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq., the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. 3601 – 19, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq., and Section 109 of the HCDA, 42 U.S.C. 5309.*

### NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Grantees must assess whether the planned use of CDBG-DR funds will have an unjustified discriminatory effect on OR failure to benefit racial and ethnic minorities in proportion to their communities' needs, particularly in concentrated areas of poverty. Grantees must also assess how they will address the recovery needs of impacted individuals with disabilities. Grantees must consider the impact of their planned use of CDBG-DR funds on all protected class groups under fair housing and civil rights laws; vulnerable populations; and other historically underserved communities.

### ACTION PLAN REQUIREMENTS

Grantees must explain how the use of funds will reduce barriers that individuals may face when enrolling in and accessing CDBG-DR assistance. Grantees must identify the proximity of natural and environmental hazards to affected populations in the most impacted and distressed areas, including members of protected classes, vulnerable populations, and underserved communities. Grantees must also explore how CDBG-DR activities may also address environmental injustices and increase long-term resilience to the impacts of climate change in these communities.





# DATA REQUIREMENTS AND BEST PRACTICES

## Data Requirements

Grantees must include data, as it is available, from the most impacted and distressed (MID) areas identifying:

- Racial and ethnic make-up of the population;
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations;
- Number and percentage of persons with disabilities;
- Number and percentage of persons belonging to Federally protected classes under the Fair Housing Act (race, color, national origin, religion, sex—which includes sexual orientation and gender identity—familial status, and disability) and other vulnerable populations as determined by the grantee;
- Indigenous populations and tribal communities, including number and percentage of each identified group;
- Racially and ethnically concentrated areas and concentrated areas of poverty
- Historically distressed and underserved communities

## Best Practices in CDBG-DR

Grantees are strongly encouraged to include examples of how their proposed allocations, selection criteria, and other actions can advance equity for protected class groups.

Grantees are also strongly encouraged to explain and provide examples of how their actions can be expected to advance the following objectives:

- Equitably benefit protected class groups in MID areas
- Overcome prior disinvestment in infrastructure and public services for protected class groups, and areas in which residents belonging to such groups are concentrated
- Enhance for individuals with disabilities in the MID areas (a) the accessibility of disaster preparedness, resilience, or recovery services, including the accessibility of evacuation services and shelters; (b) the provision of critical disaster-related information in accessible formats; and/or (c) the availability of integrated, accessible housing and supportive services.